THE AERONAUT

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— Non habent unguam modum.
SEN.

Nor rule nor measure sways their minds.

Time in his rapid career has long surpassed that period wherein bigotous Fanaticism ruled with unbridled sway & Sects are Tolerated in every free Country in the present day, and even in those regions where intolerations

ble remains it is modified by the spirit of the times far from being intolerant the spirit of the last age well nigh banished Religion altogether. Infidelity had made a wide and rapid progress it broke through the laws of order and threatened to pull down and break to atoms the social relations. Moral reason can never be the only guide of human actions it is a weak boundary over which we may be easily impelled by our interests it is the prospect of a future state the hope of rewards the fear of punishment upon

which we must depend as the safeguard of human institutions - remove them and unrestrained by any tie than would become a mere beast of prey - he would sacrifice every thing to his own ambition and specially his avarice and his passions by invading the rights of his fellow men - he would grasp at the reins of Empire with one hand and with the other would occasion the Death of Millions - he would begin the multitude under the pretence of establishing their liberties and on the downfal of them would raise the fabrick

of his own power—
Such was the state
of things in France
but the danger has pas-
sed away the thunder
of War has rolled by
and Peace once more
beams upon the world
like a gentle Calm when
when the fury of a long
raging Storm has subsi-
ded. France has expi-
ated her sins in blood
and Tears. Prostate before
the nations she has repen-
ted she has endeavou-
ed to make some repara-
tion for the evils she has
occasioned. Let her fate
remain an awful Lesson
to all Ages Let them beware
her Crimes or dread her
punishment but while

we rejoice at our happy escape from the evils of the last age let us also remember the faults of our Ancestors let us avoid the evils which they occasioned and make religious freedom a right as inviolable as it should be sacred

Fanaticism is a strange principle capable of producing the most inconsistent actions and leading virtuous and pious men into the commission of crimes which would make even the hardened criminal shudder and count well how forward ere he could proceed to perform them It is produced by a narrow way of thinking peculiar to

some sects which make it a duty to believe that all who differ from themselves in Religious opinions must be entirely misinformed it will admit no suggestion of their own fallibility convinced without examination of the Errors of others they are astonished at the blindness which will not perceive them they are astonished at the obstinacy which will not retract and consider it as a duty to reclaim them by every means in their power. So vain so tremendous is man that although he will admit the defects of his nature is aware of his own weakness and liability to Error yet he cannot perceive

the very shares his passions have prepared for him but without a struggle falls into them at once he would pull the moat out of the eye of his brother Man without first suffering his own to be extracted he would say to him though my senses are not finer my mind more sound. nor my understanding more cultivated than yours. yet I am better acquainted with this subject. the notions you have formed upon it are heretical by maintaining them you poison public sentiment you become eternal more. ry. it is justice to Society it is mercy to your own soul either to oblige you to

retract your Errors or by your death to wash out your sins and prevent the contagion of your example from spreading abroad - reasoning would be in vain upon this question an explanation of Texts arguments the most unanswerable would have no effect the prejudiced eye of Fanaticism would attend with indifference, and pass them over with incredulity.

It is to this spirit that we owe the horors of persecution - for this Millions have been driven out far from their homes and their friends into foreign lands as Strangers unknown unprotected It was for this that the Inquisition arose with horrors - that the rights of Individuals were sacrifi-

ect the limbs of the innocent
stretched upon the rack and
the stake crowded with vic-
tims. It is a sacred Maxim
of the English Law that
every Criminal shall be
presumed innocent until
proved to be guilty. but in
the Inquisition even were a
man innocent of the char-
ges submitted against him
he could hardly escape with-
out some marks of its cru-
elties - and he was ever
presumed to be guilty. till
his innocence was incon-
testably proved.

One of the most sin-
gular effects of this fiend
like Fanaticism was that
it should induce lank
youth and beauty to be-
hold with their own eyes
the sufferings of its Victims
Ambition may lead man

into wicked undertakings. the Envy. Malice or Revenge might induce him to pursue the object of his hate to view his sufferings with pleasure. but what shall we say when Woman forgetting the tenderness of her Sex when beauteous virgins attend the horrid spectacle of an auto da fe and view unmoved the agonies of its Martyrs there is no term in Language which can properly express our detestation of such sentiments - the feelings of the bosom cannot excite a sufficient sense of its horror by what perversion of intellect can the Christian Religion ever have been warped into the support of such Errors, a Religion all love all forgiveness like ours can yield no countenance to persecution It has been

occasioned by the misconstructions and misrepresentations of the ~~the~~ ~~of~~ Fanaticism

Fanaticism has been the cause of much bloodshed the recovery of the Holy City be Millions to engage in the Crusades for a long period the wealth & enterprise of Europe were devoted to this object. her Sons marched forth to a hopeless enterprise and great numbers of them fell Victims to ~~their~~ Enthusiasm in a distant Clime. nor was it alone abroad that Fanaticism occasioned Wars. the fair soil of Europe has at many times been visited by the same calamity from the same cause. Great Britain France Germany and almost every

nation of the continent have felt it in their turns Patriots and Heroes fall in vain when engaged in such a cause there can be no honour in fighting for abstract Religious principles no trumpet when the Tunnel that is bound about the victors brow reminds him that it was not gained in the defence of a Nations Rights or Liberties but by the blood of victims whose only crime was a difference in Religious sentiments

The tendency of Fanaticism to narrow the intellect is not less to be regretted than its Wars and persecutions. It is the Enemy of intelligence of books and of whatever may tend to enlarge the powers of the mind its Reign

depends upon ignorance for support diffuse information and the veil that concealed it will be withdrawn and its errors exposed in all their deformity The knowledge of this fact confined learning during many centuries entirely to the Clergy they prevented it by every possible means from being extended to their flocks they were willing that the character of man should degenerate and desired to hold the mind in eternal chains for many centuries they succeeded in their object ignorance and terror supported their Reign through the long night of darkness and-

superstition when at length the day dawn of the Reformation arose in all its glory and a new Aera commenced in the history of the human mind since that period general information has been more widely extended than at any former time but if in the course of a few centuries we have done much how much have we not lost during that period so justly denominated the dark ages how many Bacons and Newtons have lived without cultivating that genius which would have enlarged the powers of the mind and immortalized to themselves names of unperishable glory

It must be confessed that many other sects as well as that of the Romish Church have fallen into the Errors of Fanaticism nor can we

ary but that they might have been equally dangerous had they possessed equal power - It has fortunately happened either that they have been too insignificant to occasion or that their Tenets have become more mild ere much mischief was offered - thus much for the part the present and the future seems to be placed under the care of a happy Genius we have escaped from the Terrors of Infidelity We are no longer subject to the evils of Fanaticism some slight remains of its spirit may be occasionally observed - a few still believe in their own infallibility and launch their harmless thunders abroad against those who maintain different opinions but

its violence is assuaged it is a shadow rather than a substance it is in forms & not in realities but we may hope that even in this time even these Errors will be done away that Religious sentiments will be left to the free choice of every individual - and that Fanaticism may be remembered only to be detested -

W.